

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-107. (Canceled)

108. (Currently Amended) A device for use in closing septal defects comprising:

a medial portion having a longitudinal axis, wherein the device is formed from a hollow tube; and

first and second sets of fingers, wherein:

~~the medial portion and the first and second sets of fingers are formed from a same material;~~

at least one of the first and second sets of fingers are formed from cuts spaced circumferentially around the hollow tube;

each set of fingers is capable of extending substantially radially outward from the axis;

the first set of fingers is unconnected to the second set of fingers at the radially outward ends;

the first set of fingers is spaced an axial distance apart from the second set of fingers on the axis; and

only one set of fingers is covered by a web of material between adjacent ones of the fingers.

109. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the uncovered set of fingers has free ends.

110. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the fingers are resiliently biased to extend substantially radially outward from the axis.

111. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the fingers comprise nitinol.

112. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the web of material is elastic.

113. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 112 wherein the web comprises silicone.

114. (Previously Presented) An installation assembly for installing the device of claim 108 comprising a delivery structure disposed around the device substantially coaxial to the axis of the medial portion, whereby the fingers are elastically deflected inwardly toward parallelism with the axis.

115. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 108 wherein each finger has different thickness along its length.

116. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 108 wherein each finger has different width along its length.

117. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 108 wherein each finger has different flexural stiffness radially of the medial portion along its length.

118. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 108 wherein the fingers are configured to elastically deflect toward parallelism with the axis.

119. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 118 wherein the sets of fingers are configured to deflect in opposite directions and away from each other.

120-144. (Canceled)

145. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 108 ~~144~~ wherein the cuts are substantially axial in the hollow tube.

146. (Canceled)

147. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the device comprises nickel titanium alloy.

148. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the device comprises stainless steel.

149. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the device comprises a thermoplastic.

150. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 108 wherein the device is elastic.